

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-8, 10-13, 15-16, 20, and 22-26 remain pending in the application. Applicant, by this paper, amends claims 1, 10-12, 15-16, and 20 and cancels claims 9, 14, 17, and 21 without prejudice.

In the Office Action, dated August 11, 2006, the Examiner indicates that claims 11, 14, 15, 21, 24, and 26 are allowable, but objected to the claims as dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Applicant amends claim 1 to include the features of claim 14 and intervening claim 9. The amendment is believed to place claim 1 in condition for allowance as incorporating all limitations of claim 14 and all intervening claims. Applicant cancels claims 9 and 14, without prejudice.

Applicant amends claims 10-12 and 15-16 to depend from claim 1. Claims 3, 5, 7, and 8 originally depend from claim 1. Claim 13 depends from claim 12. Therefore, claims 3, 5, 7-8, 10-13 and 15-16 are believed to be allowable at least for the reason that they depend from an allowable base claim.

Applicant amends claim 20 to include the limitations of objected, but otherwise allowable, claim 21. Applicant cancels claim 21 without prejudice. Claims 22-26 depend from claim 20 and are believed to be allowable at least for the reason that they depend from an allowable base claim.

Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all pending claims in light of the amendments to incorporate the limitations from objected to claims and any intervening claims into the independent claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/807,042
Amdt. dated December 11, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2006

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 858-350-6100.

Respectfully submitted,



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